

SECTION I) AND AT THE SAME TIME ALLOW FOR MOOSE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT. GRAZING WILL BE ALLOWED IN SECTION III AFTER 1996. THE PURPOSE OF THE DELAY IS TO ALLOW ESTABLISHMENT OF A RECREATIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM TO OCCUR FIRST.] a large portion of this unit will be managed to maintain a natural setting (below 1500 feet in T19N, R1W, S.M., sections 25, 31 to 35 and the north 1/2 of Section 36; and T18N, R1W, S.M., the north 1/2 of Section 5). The intent is to provide the option for a recreational trail system in a natural setting to the extent consistent with other resource values. Forestry is a primary use in Section 7 (T18N, R1W, S.M.) and a secondary use in the south half of sections 5 and 6. Intensive wildlife habitat enhancement is the primary use of Section 31 (T19N, R1E, S.M.), and the SE 1/4 of Section 36 (T19N, R1W, S.M.), to offset loss of moose habitat in Government Peak subunit B. Enhancement is also an important use in portions of sections 5, 6, and 7 in T18N, R1W, S.M. Grazing will be allowed throughout except in Section 31 (T19N, R1E, S.M.) and the SW 1/4 of Section 36 (T19N, R1W, S.M.). (See Map 4 in this document for proposed changes to Hillside Subunit.)

The entire area is open to mining.

Because of the importance of this area as open space adjacent to the developing valley area as well as for moose habitat, the long-term intent is for the area to be managed at least in part for non-motorized recreational use. Closures to motorized use may be established as needed to accommodate non-motorized trail systems. The intent is to continue opportunities for moose and black bear hunting and the use of motorized vehicles for that purpose on existing public roads and trails until alternate access routes and trailheads are developed.

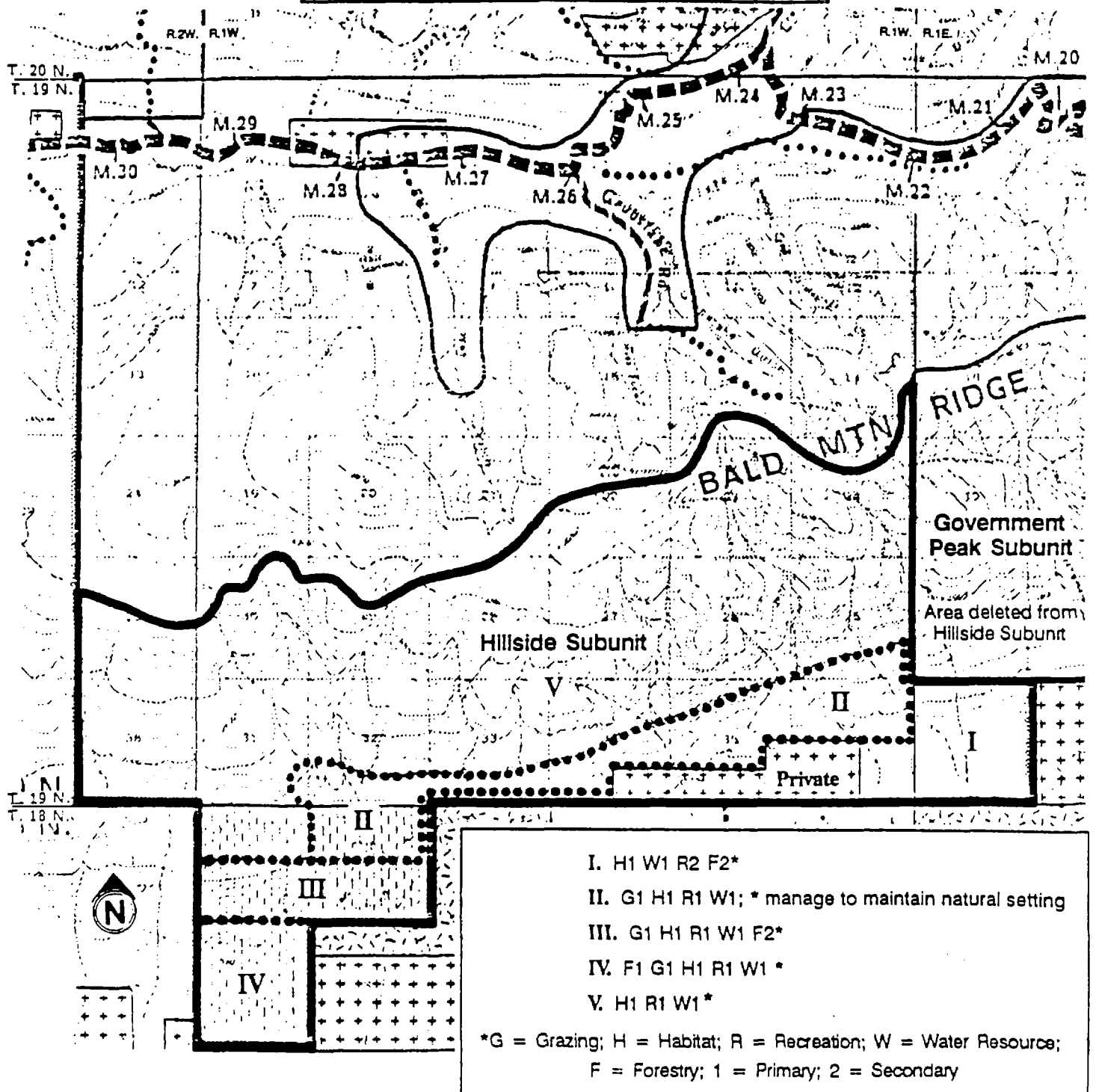
See guideline 8 below regarding the effect of this plan on the three sections of mental health land in this subunit. They are Sections 5, 6 and 7 of T18N, R 1 W, SM.

D. PLANNED ACTIONS

1. RECREATION (See Map 11 for locations)

- a. Allow establishment of a cross-country trail system [ON THE WEST AND EAST ENDS] to meet the needs of valley ski and running teams, hikers, and horseback riders.
- b. Trailhead (100 spaces), west end, Section 7, southeast corner, tied to the proposed forestry access road, an eventual 18-20 mile (30 km) trail system, possible recreation lease site.

Map 4. Changes to Hillside Subunit

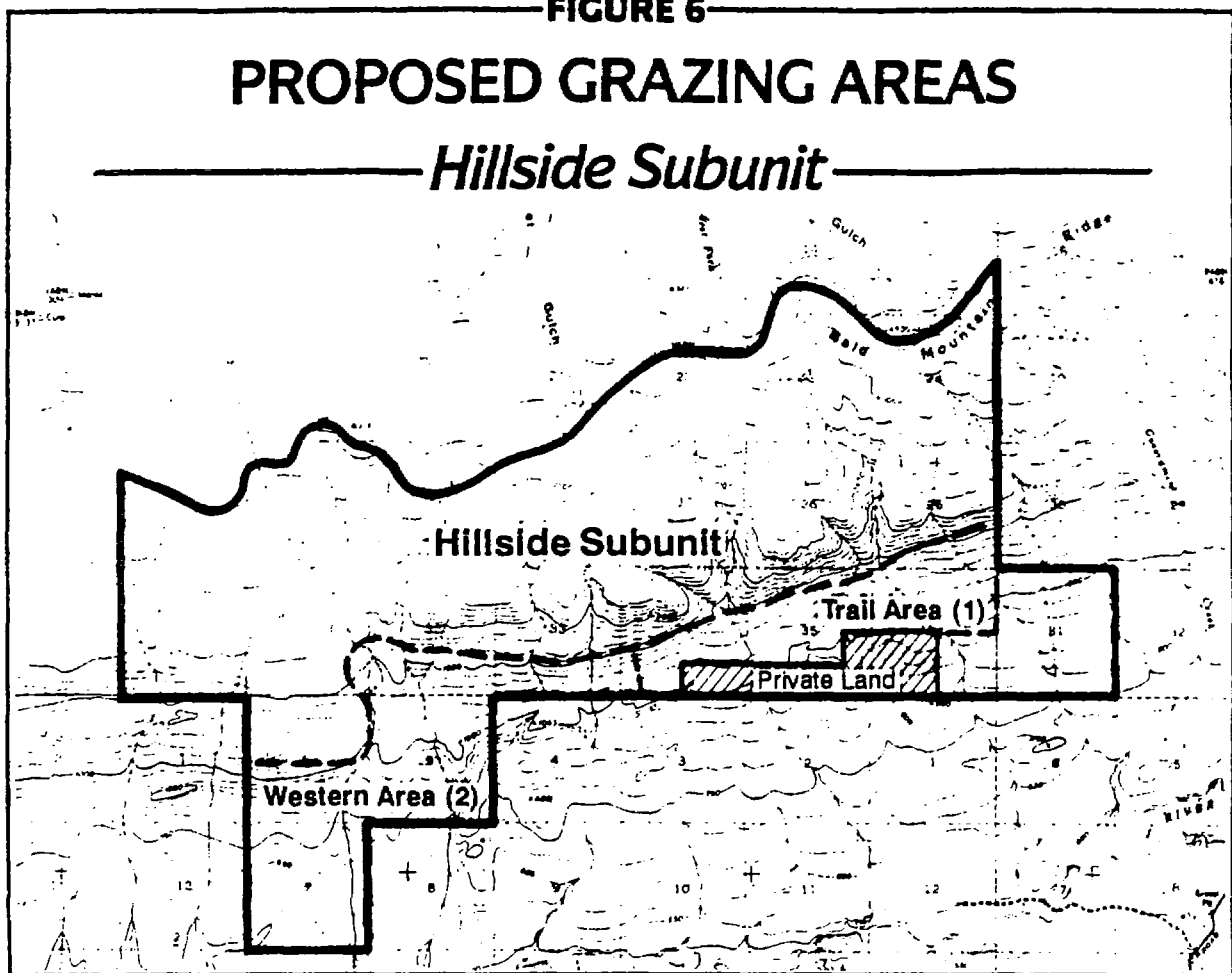


LAND OWNERSHIP

	STATE		NATIVE (PRIVATE)		HATCHER PASS ROAD		SUBUNIT BOUNDARIES
	PRIVATE		INDEPENDENCE MINE STATE HISTORICAL PARK		LOCAL ACCESS ROADS		PLANNING UNIT BOUNDARY
	MAT-SU BOROUGH		MENTAL HEALTH LAND		TRAILS		
	STATE SELECTED						

- c. Establish a new snowmachine trailhead (100 spaces) and one-mile access road to the south corner of Section 7 for possible snowmobile access to [BALD MOUNTAIN] the Houston-Meadow Lakes trail and the trail system in the Deception Creek Management Unit if access and use does not conflict with wintering moose concentration areas along the Hillside. Possible recreation lease site.
 - [d. EAST END, SECTION 27, 1/2 MILE ACCESS ROAD, TRAILHEAD PARKING (100 SPACES), EVENTUAL 18 -20 MILE (30 KM) TRAIL SYSTEM.]
 - d. Central portion, (Area II on Amendment Map 4) establish a dog mushing trail system within the subunit consisting of access via existing road, parking (50 spaces) and a 15-mile (25km) trail system.
 - e. Trail design and construction will be cooperative project of DNR, ADF&G, the Mat-Su Borough, and private sector users. It will tie in with the overall borough trail system.
 - f. ADF&G will identify brown and black bear concentration areas, critical moose habitats and concentrations, and possible tundra bird nesting areas. Trails and developments will avoid these areas to the extent feasible.
 - [h. CONVERT THE UNAUTHORIZED CABIN IN SECTION 27 TO A PUBLIC FACILITY FOR TRAIL MAINTENANCE OR WINTER WARM-UP SHELTER.]
2. **GRAZING** [See Map 12 in original plan (BACK COVER)] and Figure 6 below for locations of grazing areas described below).
- a. **Priorities for Use.** The areas to be made available for grazing by lease or permit are listed in priority order below:
 - (1) **Trail area:** Establish as a common use area for general livestock use by permits.
 - (2) **Western area:** Continue use [BY] under permit[TEE] or [LESSEE] lease; investigate feasibility of enhancing for grass production through forest harvesting methods.
 - [(3) **MIDDLE AREA:** MAKE AVAILABLE FOR GRAZING THROUGH LEASES OR PERMITS FOR GENERAL LIVESTOCK USE; INVESTIGATE VEGETATIVE CONVERSION TO GRASS AND MOOSE HABITAT THROUGH ALDER REMOVAL.]
 - [(4) **EASTERN AREA:** ESTABLISH AS A COMMON USE AREA FOR GENERAL LIVESTOCK USE BY PERMIT; INVESTIGATE VEGETATIVE CONVERSION THROUGH ALDER REMOVAL TO MEET GRAZING, WILDLIFE, AND RECREATION USES.]
 - b. **Research.** Establish moose-cattle interaction and food preferences research once active grazing is occurring.

FIGURE 6



E. GUIDELINES

1. MINING

- a. **Access Roads.** Access roads for mineral development will avoid, where possible, the cross-country trail system and minimize the number of intersections.
- b. **Visual Changes.** Access roads will minimize visual changes on the mountainside to the extent feasible.
- c. **Watershed Protection.** Water is near the surface in most of the Hillside subunit and there are several lateral streams. Range management techniques, such as fencing will be necessary to prevent negative watershed impacts (see Table 17, page 95).